

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
announces the 4th annual
BASINS OF RELATIONS
COMMUNITY WATERSHED ORGANIZING
TRAINING PROGRAM

Friday December 5– Monday December 8, 2003

Fresh water has always been a prime determinant of human settlement and the survival of civilizations depends upon healthy watersheds. Our Californian watersheds have been dramatically degraded due to extensive landscape modifications by agriculture, logging, ranching, rural and urban development. The dramatic population declines of "totem" salmon throughout California and the Pacific Northwest are but one charismatic indicator of the need for a new relationship with our watersheds.

Heightened public awareness of these myriad issues has resulted in a demand for locally based creative solutions. In addition to organizing our environmental efforts along political boundaries such as cities, counties, school districts, etc., we need to also be organizing within watersheds. Government agencies such as the California Coastal Commission and California Department of Fish and Game (which have partially funded the Basins of Relations Program) recognize that significant change can only occur with the involvement of private landowners and local citizens.

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center's Basins of Relations Program promotes and supports the creation of community-based groups organized within watershed boundaries. The Program is designed to increase the level of awareness and familiarity that citizens have within their Basin of Relations, and to empower them to initiate local education, monitoring and restoration efforts.

TRAINING DESCRIPTION

Basins of Relations is a four-day training program designed to address concepts, science, and organizing tools for protecting and restoring watersheds. Participants will be made up of teams from a number of watersheds that come to the training with the intention of organizing efforts within their home watershed.

Training topics include:

- watershed processes, terminology
- salmon ecology
- water quality monitoring
- uplands erosion control
- road restoration
- native habitat restoration
- community group process
- funding opportunities

During the training, teams will develop a strategic plan to facilitate the development of a watershed group in their home watershed.

Following the training, OAEC will provide ongoing assistance by phone, site consultations when possible, and the dissemination of information about funding opportunities and other resources.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

This training is specifically designed for teams of 3 or 4 residents from an existing or potential watershed group. Enrollment is limited to 4 to 6 teams, and is subject to an application process intended to select committed teams. We are accepting groups from coastal Northern and Central California.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

This is a four-day residential course. Participants stay in eight-person yurt dormitories equipped with bunk beds, or in their own tents. The facilities, surrounded by vibrant organic gardens and wildlands, include a hot tub, sauna, pond and hiking trails.

We serve delicious, wholesome, seasonal, organic vegetarian meals with vegetables, fruits and herbs from our gardens and local farms.

REGISTRATION FEE

Due to generous grant support from the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grant Program and pending CA Department of Fish and Game funds, this course is offered for only \$200 per person, which includes a resource packet, accommodation and meals for four days and ongoing support after the training.

TO APPLY

For more information or to apply, contact:

Brock Dolman, Program Director
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
15290 Coleman Valley Road
Occidental, CA 95465

tel: (707) 874-1557 x 206 • fax: (707) 874-1558
brock@oaec.org • www.oaec.org

ABOUT OAEC

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC) is a nonprofit educational center founded in 1994. We are located on an 80-acre property of organic gardens, orchards and wildlands in western Sonoma County, 65 miles north of San Francisco. OAEC has become a leading center for research, education and action responding to current social, economic, and environmental challenges.